

THE CITY OF LONDON UNION
WORKHOUSE.

A DESIGN for the City of London Union Workhouse was sought by a public competition, the circumstances attending which will be remembered by many of our readers. A plan by Mr. R. Tress was ultimately selected, and this has been carried out under the architect's direction by Messrs. Curtis, builders, of Stratford, and the house is nearly ready for occupation. The amount of the contract was 38,884*l*.

The annexed engraving represents the building as seen from the Bow-road, wherein it stands. In our ensuing number we shall give a plan of the ground floor, and some particulars of the arrangement. Suffice it now to say, that the buildings externally are of brick, with Portland cement and, to a certain extent, Caen stone dressing. The low building seen in the centre is the chapel, and serves to divide the fore-court into two quadrangles, having around three sides of each an open corridor.

THE ADORNMENT OF THE CITY OF
EDINBURGH.

We are surprised to learn that it is not only intended to alter, in effect, the front of the Register House, by the erection of Mr. Stael's colossal equestrian statue of Wellington there, but that, in order to make way for the statue, a complete alteration of the central portion of the screen or step-flight is mediated.† We must really protest against any such tampering with one of the chief architectural ornaments of this fine city. With our correspondent "Vitruvius," however well and carefully or tastefully accomplished, we would just as soon see "The Lady of the Lake," or "Marmion," with additions and improvements by John Wilson, or the professor's own beautiful poems altered by some poet of a future age. Not that we would object to see an appropriate piece of sculpture added to Adams's masterpiece. As it is, it is admirably designed for some such ornament, and we know that the citizens of Edinburgh have ever longed to crown this elegant approach with some appropriate piece of sculpture, and indeed have looked on it as an uncompleted design without such an ornament; but that such a desire should now be attempted to be gratified by altering, and that it appears most vitally, those very proportions and that very design which induced the desire, is quite preposterous. A colossal equestrian statue too, however excellent as a separate work, is certainly not an appropriate piece of sculpture for such a site, whether altered or not. A double wrong would thus be done, a wrong both to architect and sculptor, as in the case at Hyde-park Corner.‡ The conjunction, without the slightest doubt, would be found to be incongruous and absurd. A correspondent of the *Edinburgh Courier*, adverse, as a man of taste, to the threatened infliction, shows that the effect of the statue, as seen from the only available points of view, would remind every one closely of the sentinel on duty at the Horse Guards,—but it would be even still stiffer and more ludicrous to view a colossal horse-guard thus stuck up literally on a staircase, even though it be an outside one and not very high. As well to mount him on the house-top at once. A correspondent of the *Scotman*, also adverse to the meditated arrangement, points to St. Andrew's-square as a better site for such a statue. But the Melville monument already occupies the centre of that square, as a grand terminal to the series of lesser monuments all along designed to occupy the several crossings in the line of George-street; and the *tout ensemble* of such a design might be injured or confused by such arrangement. The favourite suggestion that it be placed in the Princes-street Gardens appears to merit its favour and preference, even though the statue were placed in a central position near the Scott monument, inasmuch as these gardens constitute that one

sunny central spot in the city where, graced in the background by the picturesque antique outline and shadow of the High-street houses, boldly ascending along the hilly ridge to the castle, and flanked and freshened by the rich foliage of the gardens in the valley beneath, a perfect galaxy of sculptural and architectural ornaments might be and ought to be crowded and concentrated. And already the idea has been seized and appropriated by the city architect, Mr. Cousin, in whose design for the adornment of the eastern and most seen and frequented division, we find a series of pedestals laid out along a grand terraced mall, and fitted for just such bold and open air groups as a colossal equestrian statue.

The adornment of the Calton-hill, we may here add, was lately, in some of its details, under notice in the council, when it was resolved,—

"That as there is little likelihood of the National Monument being soon completed, and seeing that the site thereof is in an unseemly state, and out of keeping with the natural beauty of the hill, it be remitted to the Plans and Works Committee, to endeavour to effect some arrangement with the Trustees, whereby the mason-sheds and unsightly wooden paling be removed, the site inclosed with a low parapet wall and rail, and the ground laid out in shrubbery or flowers, with a fountain in the centre; grants securing to the Trustees the rights conferred by Act of Parliament to resume possession of the ground whenever there is a likely chance of the monument being completed."

Mr. Treasurer Dick said that surely it was possible to raise some 400*l*. or 500*l*. per annum to keep the work itself still in progression. By the arrangement proposed, the Council and Trustees would be virtually declaring that the public had given up all hope. Another Councillor, Mr. Wright, did not think either Council or Trustees would be justified in again proceeding with the work till they had the whole funds collected.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE first stone of the Fulham Union Workhouse was laid on Monday week, by the Bishop of London, and the event was celebrated in the evening at Hammersmith, where the guardians and principal inhabitants and others connected with the union met at dinner; Mr. John Gunter, of Fulham, in the chair.—Plans for the rebuilding of St. Thomas's Church, Newport, Isle of Wight, are to be shortly called for by advertisement.—The Worcester Gas Company lately announced a dividend of 8 per cent. for the previous half-year.—St. Peter's Church, Cookley, is to be consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester on 21st September. A parsonage and school are in course of erection on either side of the church. The style is Early English, from a design supplied by Mr. E. Smith, of Oldswinford, the architect and builder.—Nearly 300*l*. have been subscribed for erecting the piece of sculpture representing the Good Samaritan, in the entrance-hall of the general hospital at Bristol.—Under head of "Great Improvements at Small Cost," a correspondent of *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, "A Lover of Gothic Architecture," suggests that the "following improvements might be effected by a few trifling subscriptions from the lovers of the Gothic standard of beauty in ecclesiastical architecture.—Open the walled-up cloisters of the cathedral, let the stranger once more wander over that holy ground; remove the modern sashes from the old Saxon gateway in College-green, and replace them by windows of the proper period; remove the Grecian flower-pots from the old tower of St. James; remove the tawdry porch of St. Peter's church, with its puffing cherubims, and replace it by a modest Gothic arched doorway; let the interesting crypt of St. John's church, with its monument of Rowley, &c., be cleansed, the bosses picked out, that the place may no longer be used as a coal cellar; let the mahogany arched box that encloses the entrance to the cathedral be swept away, and the old Gothic porch be opened."—The plant of the late contractor has been taken at a valuation by the Plymouth Great Western Dock Company, and the works have been again commenced; but we are informed that it is only the intention of the Directors to spend from 600*l*. to 800*l*., to secure the works commenced by the late contractor, and also to repair the Millbay Pier.

The company have no contractor; the securing of the works is let to six workmen who were employed by the late contractor.—The new parish church of St. Agnes, Cornwall, was opened on Tuesday in week before last. The nave and chancel are 88 feet long, exclusive of tower at east-end; south aisle, 73 ft. 6 in.; north aisle, 61 ft. 6 in. The style is perpendicular, with flat-headed side windows. The roof is lined with wood, stained dark. The aisles are laid with red and black tiles, and the chancel with encaustic tiles. The seats are all low, open, and uniform. The old tower and spire remain for the present, but there is a surplus for a building-fund for a new tower. The edifice was begun in August, 1848, on the site of the old one, which had become ruinous in rather an odd way. A worthy churchwarden, about half a century ago, finding one of the pillars in his way, forthwith removed it, and a brother Sampson, feeling that his power to do the like was unquestionable, forthwith removed its fellow. The roof accordingly began to fall in, and the walls to fall out, so that, notwithstanding "props of timber," and other unavailing support, the whole became ruinous and unsafe, and was at length pulled down to make way for the present structure.—The contract for building St. Peter's Church, Macclesfield, was completed in the week before last, and on Saturday week the edifice was consecrated. It is in the Early English style, with three aisles, and is built of stone, for 600 to 700 persons. The chancel windows are filled with stained glass. The architect was Mr. T. Turbshaw, of Newcastle; and the builder, Mr. Evans, to whom it was transferred from Mr. Frith. The new school of St. Peter's adjoins the building.—A Congregational Church for 1,000 sitters has been erected at Wolverhampton, at a cost of 6,500*l*., including site, from designs by Mr. Edward Banks, of Wolverhampton, architect, who superintended the erection, and also designed the schools connected with the church.—A new national school and master's-house is about to be erected at Beverley, Mr. W. Richardson, builder.—The Edinburgh Plans and Works Committee have accepted an estimate by Messrs. Hume and Melville for fitting up wells on the Calton-hill, at a cost of 78*l*.—The City Dean of Guild has ordered the immediate removal of the tenement in which John Knox resided.

LONDON GRAVEYARDS.—THE CHOLERA.

MR. WALKER has addressed another note of warning to the public on this subject, accompanied by some startling statements from Sir James Murray, which ought to receive attention. He says in it,—“Scarcely an effort has been made to remove the most evident and most prolific cause of visitations, of which we are now gathering the justly-merited fruits.

The saturation of the earth's surface and sub-surface by the excretions of man and animals,—the sanitary mischiefs resulting from imperfect sewerage and overflowing cess-pools, wherever large congregations of the human species are gathered together in cities or towns, are not immediately remediable,—the mistakes and errors of centuries cannot be rectified in a day.

But we can and ought instantly to remove a chief cause of disease and premature death deposited in our very midst.

Between forty-five and fifty thousand bodies are annually placed in the receptacles for the dead in London; and these bodies are deposited amidst millions of others who have pre-deceased them. Twelve-thirtieths of every dead body must dissipate and mix with the air we breathe, which is thus made the vehicle of invisible and subtle poisons. The transmission of gases and the percolation of animal compounds, through the walls of houses and drains, and their consequent diffusion therein, and transmission through the gully-holes, I have years since proved.”

Sir James Murray, first referring to what has been said elsewhere, as to the connection between epidemic diseases and the electrical condition of the atmosphere, remarks,—“Let any of the advocates of intra-mural graveyards employ accurate electricians, with delicate instruments, to measure the terrible galvanic

* Thirty-one tenders were sent in, ranging from 33,700*l*. to 73,947*l*.

† In virtue of a warrant obtained from the Dean of Guild Court, operations have been commenced, although it is said that there is little probability of the statue being ready for at least a twelvemonth.

‡ The arch there, by the way, appears to be confounded by some of the Edinburgh critics with the marble arch at Buckingham Palace.